

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Public Services – Councillor R Lancaster

14 January 2016

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Executive Director of Place

Ward(s) affected:

All Wards

Title:

Extension to the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Age Policy Exemption

Is this a key decision?

'No – Although the matter may affect all Wards in the City, it is not anticipated that the impact will be significant'

Executive Summary:

At a meeting on 10th December 2013 the Cabinet Member for Public Services resolved that;

“Approval be given to allow the use of hackney carriage vehicles over ten years old up until the 31st May 2014, subject to the vehicle passing the inspection test and also allowing the opportunity for a retest, if appropriate.”

and at a meeting of the 25th March 2014 the Cabinet Member resolved that;

“A further temporary exemption for hackney carriages over ten years old to operate until 31st December 2014, subject to the vehicle passing the inspection test and also allowing the opportunity for a retest, if appropriate be approved.”

And at a meeting of the 26th February 2015 the Cabinet Member resolved that;

“... the exemption for hackney carriages over ten years old be further extended to operate until 31st January, 2016, subject to the vehicle passing the inspection test and also allowing the opportunity for a re-test if appropriate.”

In view of the imminent expiry of the most recent deadline, a further approval is now required in respect of these hackney carriage vehicles.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Public Services is recommended to:

“Further extend the exemption for hackney carriages over ten years old to operate until 31st July 2016, subject to the vehicle passing the inspection test and also allowing the opportunity for a re-test if appropriate.”

List of Appendices included:

None

Other useful background papers:

None

Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title: Extension to the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Age Policy Exemption

1. Context (or background)

1.1 The Council is currently undertaking a review of its hackney carriage vehicle specification and its effect on the travel choices of the disabled community. In light of this review the Council has previously temporarily extended the age of vehicles that can be currently licensed.

1.2 At a meeting on 10th December 2013 the Cabinet Member resolved that;

“Approval be given to allow the use of hackney carriage vehicles over ten years up until the 31st May 2014, subject to the vehicle passing the inspection test and also allowing the opportunity for a retest, if appropriate.”

and at a meeting of the 25th March 2014 the Cabinet Member resolved that;

“A further temporary exemption for hackney carriages over ten years old to operate until 31st December 2014, subject to the vehicle passing the inspection test and also allowing the opportunity for a retest, if appropriate be approved.”

and at a meeting of the 26th February 2015 the Cabinet Member resolved that;

“... the exemption for hackney carriages over ten years old be further extended to operate until 31st January, 2016, subject to the vehicle passing the inspection test and also allowing the opportunity for a re-test if appropriate.”

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

2.1 Given that the further research and consultation proposed in section 2.1 of the Cabinet Member report of the 25th March 2014 concerning vehicle specification and its effects on the travel choices of the disabled community is still on-going and also that in a Licensing & Regulatory Committee report dated 20th January 2015 the Committee decided that a 12 month trial of an alternative type of hackney carriage vehicle should take place (two Peugeot E7's) which will be complete by the end of March 2016 with a report likely to be heard at a Licensing & Regulatory Committee meeting in June 2016, the Cabinet Member for Public Services is recommended to;

Further extend the exemption for hackney carriages over 10 years old to operate until 31st July 2016, subject to the vehicle passing the inspection test and also allowing the opportunity for a re-test if appropriate.

This further extension should allow ample time for this detailed work to be completed. Should significant changes to the policy on vehicle specification be made this further extension will give existing licence holders an opportunity to take advantage of any change in specification in their choice of replacement vehicle.

If the extension is not approved this will require some licence holders to change their vehicles now, that is, before any change in policy that may occur in the near future. This is likely to be detrimental to licence holders and adversely impact on the potential benefits of any change in policy.

3. Results of Consultation Undertaken

Representations have been received from Unite Union on behalf of the trade.

4. Timetable for implementing these decisions

Immediate effect.

5. Comments from Executive Director of Resources

5.1 Financial implications

None

5.2 Legal implications

The previous extensions and proposed extension protect the interests of licence holders pending the outcome of the ongoing vehicle specification review. Any risks in temporarily extending the age of vehicles that can be licensed are adequately met by the vehicle inspection regime.

6. Other implications

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / Local Area Agreement (or Coventry Sustainable Community Strategy)?

It will help the taxi trade in its licensing of hackney carriage vehicles whilst research and consultation concerning vehicle specification and its effects on the travel choices of the disabled community is still on-going.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

Through established reporting and governance arrangements.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None

6.4 Equalities / EIA

None

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None

Report author(s):**Name and job title:**

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Directorate:

Place

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Councillor R Lancaster	Cabinet Member for Public Services	-	26/11/2015	04/12/2015

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